designate to India has said that India's inclusion for permanent membership of the Security Council would "undermine the cohesion" of the World body; and

(b) if so, whether Government consider this as a constructive remark?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) During the confirmation hearings in the Near East and South Asia Sub-Committee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the US Ambassador-designate to India stated that it would be important to first assess the overall circumstances before looking at further expansion to include important countries other than Germany and Japan. lie further stressed that the need to maintain cohesion of the UN security Council as a functional body would be an important consideration in this regard.

(b) Government have noted these remarks by the US Ambassdor-designate to India. Government have also taken note of President Clinton's response to a question at the joint press conference during Prime Minister's visit, that the US position on other countries participating in the UN Security Council in a capacity similar to that envisaged by the US for Japan and Germany was an issue on which the thought US should keep an open mind.

Assessment About PM's Visit to US

7680. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an assessment has been made of the impact of the Prime Minister's visit to the USA;

(b) how many Senators and Congressmen attended the Joint Session of Congress addressed by the Prime Minister; and

(c) whether the visit received good coverage by the American media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) It has been ascertained from Congressional officials that around 100 members of the Congress were in the Chamber in addition to Senior House Staffers who enjoy Floor privileges, members of the US Supreme Court, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and over 100 members of the Diplomatic Corps.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Detention of Indian Workers in Thailand

7681. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been indiscriminate detention of Indian workers in Thailand in the past fortnight, as reported in the Economic Times dated 9 May, 1994;

(b) whether this detention is a part of Thai authorities compaign to weed-out illegal immigrants and whether the Indian community forms a major share; and

(c) whether the Indian Embassy in Bangkok has taken stock of the situation and if so, what steps are being taken to protect Indian workers from inhuman treatment in Thai lock-ups and possible deportation to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Thai immigration authorities mounted a crackdown on illegal immigrants working in Thailand without work permits from the third week of April, 1994. According to Immigration authorities, about 50,000 illegal immigrants are working without work permits from South Asian countries. The illegal immigrants are picked up without any particular country or community being targetted and ordered to be deported.

(c) Out of 1216 Indian nationals arrested, 1115 have already been

repatriated to India with the active involvement of the Indian Embassy and coordination with Associations. The embassy's Consular Officers have been visiting the Immigration Detention Centre regularly to assist these Indian nationals. No report has been received of any ill treatment meted out to these persons who arc temporarily detained along with nationals of other countries from South Asia and Europe.

Reports of US 011 Human Right Practices

7082. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 424 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether US Government has published two reports on the human right practices for 1993;

(b) if so, whether in these two reports Pakistan has been put on a soft footing whereas India has been put in crime list;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined both the reports;

(d) whether these reports were discussed by the Indian Government with the visiting US Asstt. Secretary during April, 1994;

(c) if so, what was the reaction of the US officials;

(I) whether the Prime Minister discussed the issue of terrorist activities by Pakistan in India with US President during his recent visit; and

(g) if so, whether US President assured the Prime Minister that they will not indulge and will impress upon Pakistan not to create disorder in India and also settle the Kashmir question bilaterally under Shimla Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHAT1A):

(a) The US State Department has published the Annual Country Report on Human Rights for 1993.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The Prime Minister and President Clinton promised to cooperate in the search for solutions to global challenges posed by international terrorism. The two leaders also agreed on the need for bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan to resolve outstanding issues, including Jammu & Kashmir, as envisaged in the Shimla Agreement.

Protection of Sikhs from Racial Discrimination in U.K.

7683. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item which appeared in the Asian Age, New Delhi on the 24th May, 1994 under the caption "Sikh Cabbies in UK protest symbol lean";

(b) is so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what action Government have taken to protect the Sikhs from racial discrimination in UK?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter pertains to British nationals of Indian origin and to local licensing regulations, in terms of which wind screens and rear screens of taxis arc required to remain clear of all objects. Display of the "Khanda" symbol or any other religious symbol is deemed by the local British authorities to conic within the purview of these